

Sanitary Sewer Smoke Testing *What to Expect*

The Smoke is Harmless.

The smoke used in the test is:

- Nontoxic
- Non-staining
- Odorless
- Harmless to humans, pets, plants, and food
- Not a fire hazard

While the smoke is nontoxic and harmless, the smoke may be an irritant to people or pets with respiratory conditions. It is recommended that those with such conditions stay away during testing.

Smoke alarms may be activated during smoke testing. If possible, open windows and/or doors for ventilation. **If you have any doubt about the origin of the smoke, please call 911.**

Contact Us With Concerns

If you have any questions about the test, health issues, or any other concerns, feel free to contact us:

CWB Engineers, Inc.

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Paragould Light, Water, and Cable is working with CWB Engineers to conduct a smoke test on the sanitary sewer system in your neighborhood. The purpose of this test is to identify leaks, breaks, or faulty connections in the system. Finding and sealing such leaks will help minimize the amount of clean water, such as storm water and groundwater, entering the system. Preventing this water from entering the system will help reduce the risk of sanitary sewer overflows and backups into homes and businesses.

How Does it Work?

Harmless smoke will be blown into the sanitary sewer system through a manhole. The smoke will fill the pipes, and if there is a leak in the pipe, the smoke will exit the pipe and rise to the ground surface.

During the test, the project team will be looking for smoke coming from along the sewer alignment, manhole covers, roof vents, catch basins, downspouts, etc.



The smoke should not enter your home or business if it is properly plumbed, vented, and the water traps contain water. If smoke does enter a home or building, it will clear within 30 minutes with proper ventilation.

Preparing for the Test

The best thing you can do to prepare for the smoke test is be aware, which will help minimize unnecessary emergency calls. The testing should not affect your home or business, or your sanitary sewer service.

Smoke could enter your home or business through floor drains or plumbing fixtures (toilets, sinks, showers, etc.) if the water trap has dried up. To prevent this, pour a bucket of water down all floor drains and any plumbing fixtures that have not been used in the past month.

You do not need to be present during the testing. However, **if you are home and you see smoke in your building or structure, you have a plumbing issue and you need to contact a certified plumber.**